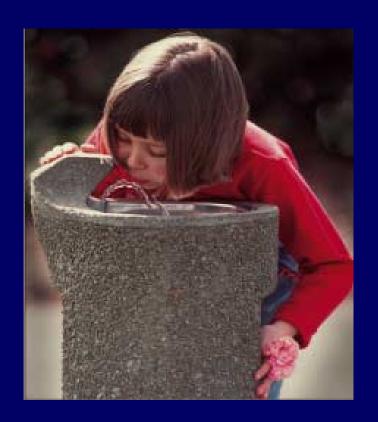
# Proposed Rules for Surface Water Treatment and Arsenic

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#### Mission

To protect the health of the people of Washington State by assuring safe and reliable drinking water.



#### **Purpose**

- Provide brief overview of proposed regulations
  - Arsenic
  - Long Term 1 Enhance Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT1ESWTR)
- Seek State Board of Health approval

#### **Proposed Rules**

- Both federal Safe Drinking Water Act rules
- Under "primacy" agreement with EPA, state must adopt rules at least as stringent as federal rules
- In both cases, DOH recommends adopting federal rules as written

# Water Systems Regulated in WA

- Group A subject to state and federal requirements
  - 15 or more connections and/or 25 or more people
    - Community
    - Non-Transient Non-Community (NTNC)
    - Transient Non-Community (TNC)
- Group B subject to state requirements
  - 2 14 connections and less than 25 people

### **Arsenic Rule - Background**

- Federal Rule Safe Drinking Water Act
- Elevated arsenic linked to multiple adverse health effects
- Original arsenic standard set in 1942 at 50 parts per billion (ppb) by USPHS
  - Standard focused on long-term chronic effects
- Long debate over the need to update the standard

#### **New MCL**

- High degree of controversy in setting new arsenic standard
  - Both policy and science heavily debated
  - National Academy of Sciences conclusions
- June 2000 proposed at 5 ppb
- Oct 2001 final MCL set at 10 ppb
- EPA initially mistakenly adopted the new MCL as 0.01 mg/L, later corrected to 0.010 mg/l

## **Impacted Water Systems**

- All Group A community and NTNC systems
  - Approximately 200 do not meet the 10 ppb standard in WA state
- Does not apply to Group A TNC systems
  - Arsenic standard set to prevent longterm exposure effects

## **Proposed Regulations**

- Adopt new federal rule and standard as currently written
  - 0.010 mg/l
  - Apply to community and NTNC systems
  - Do not apply to TNC systems
- Eliminate current standard of 50 ppb for TNC systems
  - Avoid dual standards

### **Compliance Timeline**

- New standard effective under federal rule – February 2002
- Compliance date January 2006
  - EPA recognized the cost and complexity of remediating arsenic above 10ppb

# Group A Transient Non-Community Systems

- Predominantly transient (short-term use)
  - Restaurants, campgrounds, rest areas, etc.
- Some TNC systems serve small permanent populations (< 25 people)</li>
  - 1,600 systems serve 460,000 transient persons plus 6,500 resident individuals
- Initial monitoring for arsenic still required

#### **Immediate Health Threats**

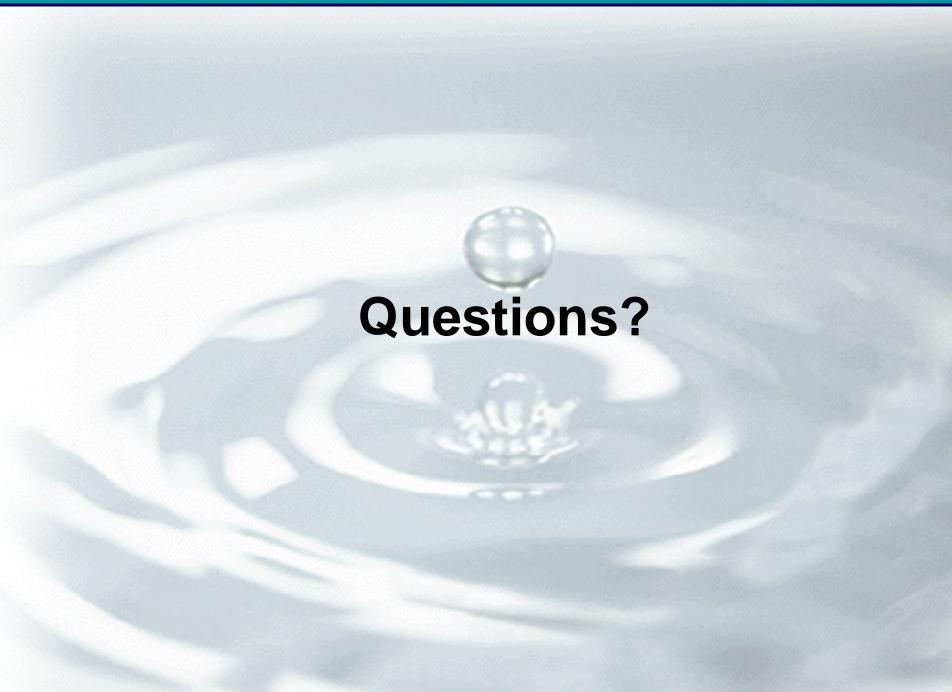
- At sufficient levels, arsenic can pose acute health effects
- If acute levels detected, <u>all</u> systems will be required to:
  - Notify the public
  - Reduce the level of arsenic provided to consumers
- Authority provided under general public health statutes

#### **Public Involvement Process**

- Public forums held at three different locations around the state.
- Direct mailing of rule notice to regulated community and interested parties.
- Draft rule on internal and external web page for informal comment.

#### **Public Comments**

- Both the MCL should be higher and lower
- Both to apply and not apply new MCL to Group A TNC systems
- Health protection message must be clear and consistent



# Long Term 1 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT1ESWTR)

- Federal Rule Safe Drinking Water Act
- Provides increased protection against gastrointestinal illness from Cryptosporidium
- Several outbreaks including 1993
   Milwaukee Outbreak 400,000 ill and 50 deaths

## LT1ESWTR Requirements

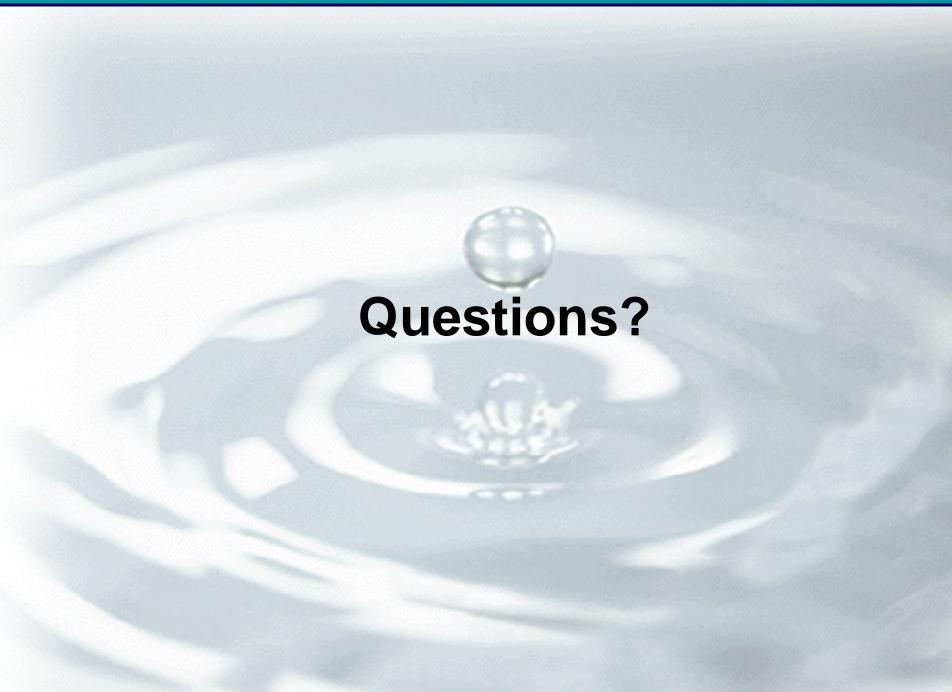
- More stringent turbidity limits and monitoring for conventional and direct filtration plants serving less than 10,000 people
- More stringent requirements for systems using bag and cartridge filters
- Similar to Interim Enhanced SWTR requirements for large systems adopted in 2003
- About 150 systems in Washington subject to rule.

# LT1ESWTR Requirements Continued

- Filtering systems must remove 2 log (99 percent) of Cryptosporidium
- New turbidity standards
- Must monitor individual filter turbidities
- Compliance required by January 2005

# Comments Received on LT1ESWTR

No comments have been received from either the public or water systems on the proposed rule



#### For more information:

**♦ LT1ESWTR and Arsenic** 

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